IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Yasushi Maruta et al.

Examiner:

Unassigned

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Dated:

August 20, 2008

AND METHOD

Confirmation No. 8411

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.97 and 1.98, it is requested that the following reference, which is also listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, be made of record in the above-identified case.

1. Japanese Patent Application Laid Open No. 2001-333123, dated November 30, 2001.

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC FILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Patent & Trademark Office via Electronic Filing through the United States Patent and Trademark Office e-business website, on August 20, 2008.

Dated: August 20, 2008

Paul J. Esatto, Jr.

The reference was cited in an Official Action dated June 3, 2008 received from the Japanese Patent Office in connection with the counterpart Japanese patent application No. 2006-510405 which is the continuation application based on Japanese application No. 2004-053409. Applicants are submitting a copy of the above-cited reference required by 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(i) and (ii), the Official Action, and an English translation of the Examiner's comments regarding the reference from the Official Action. The relevance of the reference is described in the Official Action. Please note that the other references cited in the Official Action were previously submitted in applicants' Information Disclosure Statement dated August 24, 2006.

In compliance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3), as a concise statement of relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information, the undersigned attorney of record submits a translation of portions of an Official Action by a foreign examiner in which the reference was cited. The relevance to the pending U.S. patent application is that the reference were cited in a foreign patent application on the same subject matter. However, no independent analysis of the reference, the accuracy of the statement of the foreign examiner or the claims of the foreign application under the laws of that country or the United States relative to the subject matter claimed in the present application has been made; the present understanding of the contents thereof by the undersigned being based on the translation of the foreign examiner's comments submitted herewith.

The undersigned attorney hereby states that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this

Respectfully submitted,

Paul J. Esatto, Jr. Reg.No.30, 749

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Information Disclosure Statement.

PJE:ahs